

THE Oxford WONDER GIVING

A True and Strange Relation of Mr. Henry
Waller, Minister of St. Dunstons Parish
in the City of Oxford, who lay in a Trance
Forty-eight Hours and Six Minutes
To which is added

A Sermon preached at the intended Funeral
from the 3d of Tim iv. 7. I have fought
a good Fight, I have finished my Course
I have kept the Faith.

ALSO

A Sermon which he preached himself the
Sunday after he came out of the Trance
those that were invited to his Funeral, viz.
John xi. 15. I am &c.



Licensed and sold according to Order.

The Oxford WONDER, &c.

IN the Parish of St. Clement's, Oxford, lived one Mr. Henry Watts, formerly a Minister of that Place, being a very worthy and devout Gentleman, taking every Week extraordinary Pains in instructing his Parishioners, going from House to House to compleat and confirm them in their Christian Faith and Principles, and where he found any in great necessity he would not only relieve them to the utmost of his ability, but would promote and put forwards weekly Contributions, often preaching upon the Christian and divine Subject of Charity, and indeed he was the wonder of those Parts, by his often putting in practice that Heavenly Duty, and these good Offices he has from time to time performed, during his residence as Minister at the Place aforesaid which has been near 12 Years, but however the grief of his Parishioners, especially the poorer Sort, he fell into a Swoon on the first Day of August last, and dropt by his Chair to the great amazement of the Spectators, in which they gave him comfortable Cordials, but all proving to no effect; so about eight of the Clock the same Morning, finding his body cold and breathless, his Friends order'd and prepar'd all things necessary for his Funeral, which was appointed to be upon the third following his supposed Death, being in his Coffin all that time without any appearance of Life; nay, seemingly so far from it that he was really cold, the third

Day being come the Rev. Mr. Willmson was made choice of to preach the Funeral Sermon, the Substance of which is as follows.

The S E R M O N.

2 Tim. iv. 7.

I have fought a good Fight, and have finished my Course, Beloved Friends, and fellow Christians.

I Have no need to give you the Character of our departed Brother; and Fellow Labourer in the Lord, his Parts, Piety, and Goodness were sufficiently known to all you, the blessed effects of which, no doubt, but by this time through the mercies of our Saviour, makes him shine amongst the elect in the Kingdom of God. He when living amongst us was a lively Pattern and Emblem to imitate, his Sickness and extraordinary Patience under it, considering its violence, may learn us to be harmless and submissive under all Afflictions, his daily considering how sweet and easy God had made it to him, may also give us matter of comfort and consolation against that dreadful and terrible Moment of our own, provide we trace him in all the godly performances of his holy Life and confession; which that we may all do, God of his infinite mercy and goodness enable us with grace through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom, with the Father and the holy spirit, be all honour, glory, praise, power, and dominion, now and for evermore. Amen.

Dr. *Wilkinson*, the Minister had no sooner ended his sermon, and descended towards the grave, in order to perform the usual ceremonies but to his, and other People's great surprise, a noise of groaning and struggling was heard in the Coffin, just as they were putting it into the Ground. Whereupon, by Dr. *Wilkinson's* Order, the Coffin was open'd; when, to all the Spectators astonishment, the supposed dead Corpse held up his hand, and offer'd to rise up bidding them not be afraid, but spoke very faint. However, being put into a warm bed, and having some comfortable things given him by degrees recovered his former Senses, and being asked how he did, said very well, and able to deliver what had been revealed to him. After he had order'd some bolsters and pillows to be brought to support him being weak, he desired to sit up in his bed, and leaning on them, said I have been a long journey, where I have had many extraordinary secrets made known to me, some of which I will reveal to you, *viz* As soon as my soul was seperated from this lump of clay, all my Sins were exposed before me seeming as engraved on a marble table in crimson letters, which very much astonished me; the scroll was very large, every title of them being fresh in my mind, it caused me almost to despair: When at that very instant an Angel presented me with a white and pleasant roll, in which my good Acts were written in letters

of shining gold; as also my holy Prayers, and charitable Practice, which shined above all the rest most gloriously: So that a great and heavenly joy seized my Soul so waiting and expecting my Sentence, this heavenly Person bid me return and declare to the World as follows: There shall be great Signs and Visions of armies that shall be seen fighting in the Air that will be shewn from Heaven, to testify that the Lord's coming is at hand to judge the World in righteousness; and this will be a year of great wars and blood shed amongst the armies abroad, and two great towns will be taken after an obstinate and bloody resistance after which a mighty battle will be fought, which will last some Hours, and many thousands will be slain, this being the last that will be fought, and will therefore be the most terrible; and in the end shall be a general Peace, and there shall be no more clashing of swords, nor the noise of guns; and the cries of dying Soldiers shall be no more heard; for there shall be a general peace through all Europe. By this shall be a year of great sickness in mortality, which will happen in some parts of this Kingdom; the small Pox, Fevers, and Agues will prove very fatal. And there will be many signs seen in the air, and great earthquakes in Spain and Italy; which will do great damage and great confusion will happen in the Turkish dominions, and shall convince them that he is the Mahomitant Imposter, and of a great and

dismal shower of blood that shall overflow that great signet of Constantinople, that shou'd convert many of the Turks into the Christian Faith. So my Friends I have delivered to you what I have heard and seen faithfully, upon which Mrs. Watts, (being his own Sister) asked him if he could give any certain Testimony for human satisfaction, of his being in another world. He replied, yes, dear Sister I can, and thereupon desired to speak with her in private, at which time he told her many secret sins which she had been guilty of, inso-much that the remembrance thereof caused her to weep bitterly, and afterwards glorified God, confessed that they were such secret sins as she was sure that none but God and herself till then ever had any Knowledge of, upon the rumour of this strange and remarkable providence, many wicked and ungodly Persons resorted to him only by way of derision to try whether he could reveal these Sins or not, who no sooner approached his presence, but they were immediately told many of their secret and notorious Sins, to their extraordinary amazement and wonder, and not only so, but to the happy conversation and convict of many, who perhaps without this uncom and supernatural method they continued deserved Vassals of God's wrath and vengeance, though now remain, blessed be God, hopeful Objects of the favour and mercy of the Almighty, which is chiefly owing to this strange and wonderful

dispensation. He having received his Strength the next Sunday, he gave Notice to those were at his intended Funeral to come to Church, when he preached to them the following most excellent Discourse.

The S E R M O N.

John xi. 25.

I am the Resurrection of the Life, saith the Lord: He that believeth in me, tho' he be dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die.

THESE Words of our Saviour were spoken in answer to Martha, who seemed to doubt of the literal meaning and signification thereof; for it was when Lazareus had been dead four days; and, she was so far grounded in her human opinion that she thought it impossible for Christ to raise himself again, as appeared by her repeated arguments or contradictions, saying, my Lord by this time he stinketh, for he hath been dead these four days. But saith our Saviour, verse the 40. Said I not unto thee, if thou would'st believe, thou shalt see the glory of God. Indeed Mary seemed, verse 22d. to be of opinion that if Christ had been with Lazareus in the time of his sickness he might have perserved him alive; but being dead, she with Martha concluded it unnecessary to hope for his Resurrection. You may read the whole Chapter at your leisure, and observe how miraculously Lazareus was raised

to Life after he had been dead four days. Beloved, God's arm is not shortened, his power is not lessened, that wonderful and strange miracle was to convince obstinate and perverse unbelievers. I am in great hopes this unspeakable providence vouchsafed to me, was appointed for some greater end, in order to restrain such wilful and stubborn ones; however by his infinite disposition we may, as in a glass view the unbounded and unlimited works of God, who sent me back again upon a great and mighty errand and that in a great and extraordinary manner, thereby to make his power and greatness unquestionable and that in vain and impious Men may have no matter of argument to withstand the truth of the gospel. I am heartily glad that I am accounted worthy to bear testimony to you all of the exceeding goodness, as well as infinite power of our creator; and I also rejoiced in this that my return has or at least will, not only by a means to strengthen your faith, but to conform and support it, and that under the greatest difficulties that any human disaster can occasion, I have many other things more to add, but being somewhat faint, by reason of my indisposition, I shall therefore refer the farther prosecution of this subject to The next opportunity of God is pleased to afford me, to whose protection I earnestly recommend to you all. Amen.